

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WILLIAM L. KOVACS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY &
REGULATORY AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062
(202) 463-5457

October 27, 2015

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552 and implementing regulations in Part 2 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber") requests that the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") provide public access to the following records dated from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014:

- 1) The amount of funding provided by EPA to the states listed in line 3 below for State and Local Air Quality Management under the Categorical Grants program for the years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Specifically:
 - a) The amount of the disbursement to each state or tribal government for each identified program;
 - b) The statutory authority (Clean Air Act Sec. number for the particular categorical grant subcategory) under which each grant was made;
 - c) The state or tribal government agency to which each grant was made.
- 2) Please ensure that the information provided covers all Categorical Grants for State and Local Air Quality Management to the states listed in the years requested.
- 3) Please provide the above information for the following five states: Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, and Oregon.

If the EPA maintains a database of such grants which includes all of the specific grant information requested above, production to the Chamber of such a database may substitute for the request for copies of such documentation.

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. Please produce records electronically in Microsoft Excel format. Please organize and identify records by the respective law under which notices were made.

If you believe that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, the Chamber requests that you provide it with an index of those documents, as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 415 U.S. 977 (1972). A *Vaughn* index should describe each document claimed as exempt with sufficient specificity under a precisely identified statutory exemption so as "to permit a reasoned judgment as to whether the material is actually exempt under FOIA." *Founding Church of Scientology v. Bell*, 603 F.2d 945, 959 (D.C. Cir. 1979). Moreover, the *Vaughn* index must "describe each document or portion thereof withheld, and for

each withholding it must discuss the consequences of supplying the sought-after information.” *King v. Department of Justice*, 830 F.2d 210, 223-24 (D.C. Cir. 1987). *See also Kimberlin v. Department of Justice*, 139 F.3d 944, 949-50 (D.C. Cir. 1998).

If you believe that some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable, non-exempt portions of the requested records. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). If it is your position that a document contains non-exempt portions of records and that those non-exempt portions are so dispersed throughout the documents as to make segregation impossible, please state what portion of the document is non-exempt, and how the material is dispersed through the document. *Mead Data Central v. Department of the Air Force*, 455 F.3d 242, 262 (D.C. Cir. 1977). Claims of non-segregability should be made with the same detail as required for claims of exemptions in a *Vaughn* index. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically that it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.

If you take the position that certain records or portions thereof are not required to be disclosed, we ask that you nonetheless consider disclosing the records on a discretionary basis. Doing so would be consistent with Attorney General Holder’s March 19, 2009 FOIA guidance to federal agencies, since that guidance counsels use of a presumption of openness. Moreover, President Obama’s January 21, 2009 memoranda commit the Administration to an unparalleled level of transparency and accountability. *See* Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, 74 Fed. Reg. 4685 (Jan. 26, 2009).

I would be glad to discuss any aspect of this request with you to expedite your response. In addition, please contact me at once if any further steps are required to clarify any aspect of this request for records to expedite the response.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Chamber agrees to pay or pre-pay reasonable charges incurred to search for and copy these documents, upon presentation of an invoice with the finished copies. If any such search and copying fees exceed \$1,000, please telephone me in advance at (202) 463-5457 for agreement to such charges.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. L. Kovacs", written in a cursive style.

William L. Kovacs